

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-14

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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DEPT PLS PASS INFO ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR UN XM CB

SUBJ: KHMER QUESTION: LATIN AMERICAN VOTE

REF: A) STATE 238679 (NOTAL)

B)) USUN 5410 TO DEPT.

SUMMARY: NINETEEN LATIN AMERICAN YES VOTES WERE MAJOR FACTOR IN NARROW (53 TO 50) VICTORY FOR MOTION AVOIDING 28TH GA ACTION ON PRO-SIHANOUK RESOLUTION. LA'S WERE ALSO HELPFUL IN STATEMENTS AND BEHIND THE SCENES. ISSUE OF INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS WAS KEY ONE FOR LA'S, BUT THERE WAS ALSO CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY FOR KHMER REPUBLIC AND RESENTMENT OF NON-AWQGNED RAILROADING EFFORT. WE SUGGEST POSTS IN 19 COUNTRIES EXPRESS APPRECIATION. END SUMMARY.

1. FINAL OUTCOME OF KHMER QUESTION WAS NARROW COTE (53 YES, 50 NO, 21 ABSTENTIONS AND 11 ABSENCES) IN PLENARY DEC. 5 IN FAVOR OF ORAL MOTION TO DEFER QUESTION (TECHNICALLY "ADJOURN") UNTIL NEXT YNGA. WHILE OBVIOUSLY EVERY VOTE COUNTED, 19 YES VOTES FROM LATIN AMERICA (BAHAMAS, BARBADOS, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CHILE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, CONFIDENTIAL

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EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, MEXICO, NICARAGUA,

PANAMA, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA) WERE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT AS LARGEST NUMBER FROM ANY REGION. WESTERN EUROPE AND EAST ASIA WERE NEXT. OTHER SIX LA'S WERE DIVIDED AMONG TWO NO'S (CUBA, GUYANA), TWO ABSTENTIONS (ARGENTINA, TRINIDAD/TOBAGO), AND TWO SEEMINGLY INTENTIONAL ABSENCES (JAMAICA, PERU).

2. LA'S WERE ALSO HELPFUL IN DEBATES AND IN BEHIND-THE-SCENES. BOLIVIA (DE ZAVALA), PARAGUAY (BARREIRO), URUGUAY (GIAMBRUNO) AND BARBADOS (WALDRON-RAMSEY) SPOKE STRONGLY AGAINST PRO-SIHANOUK RESOLUTION, BARBADOS BEING PARTICULARLY OUTSPOKEN IN TAKING ON THE NON-ALIGNED. HAITI, VENEZUELA, NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA WERE ALSO INSCRIBED TO SPEAK, BUT DID NOT DO SO SINCE DEBATE WAS CUT OFF BY LIBERIAN MOTION TO DEFER QUESTION. (WE AND ALLIES TOOK CARE TO INFORM THEM OF THIS MANEUVER IN ADVANCE AND THEY WERE AGREEABLE TO IT.) URUGUAY (GIAMBRUNO) WAS ONE OF TWO SPEAKERS CHOSEN TO SECOND LIBERIAN MOTION. EARLIER, WHEN IT APPEARED THAT WRITTEN RESOLUTION FOR DEFERMENT MIGHT BE REQUIRED INSTEAD OF SIMPLE MOTION FROM FLOOR, BARBADOS, BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDUREAS, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY (IN ADDITION TO LESOTHO AND LIBERIA) AGREED TO COSPONSOR. COLOMBIA AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHERS MENTIONED ABOVE WERE ACTIVE IN LOBBYING AMONG LATIN AMERICAN GROUP.

3. LA VOTE ON DEFERMENT REPRESENTED SOME IMPROVEMENT OVER ANTICIPATED VOTE ON PRO-SIHANOUK RESOLUTION, ALTHOUGH NOT QUITE AS MUCH AS HOPED. ALL THOSE VOTING YES ON DEFERMENT WERE PREPARED TO VOTE AGAINST SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION, EXCEPT FOR MEXICO (ABSTANTION) AND POSSIBLY PANAMA (UNCOMMITTED, POSSIBLE ABSTENTION). IN ADDITION TO CUBA (A COSPONSOR), GUYANA AND PERU HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE FOR RES AND TRINIDAD/TOBAGO SEEMED INCLINED TO DO SO, WHILE JAMAICA WAS UNDECIDED AND ARGENTINA HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN. ONE ABVIOUS FACTOR WAS THAT ALL SIX LA'S WHO FAILED TO VOTE FOR DEFEREMENT ARE MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP. WE KNOW OF SOME (INCLUDING JAMAICA) THAT WERE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM NON-ALIGNED AND CHINESE, WHO PLAYED UP DEFERMENT AS PARTISAN MOVE RATHER THAN COMPROMISE. IT SEEMS THAT JAMAICA (WHO TOLD US AS MUCH) AND PERU SOLVED DILEMMA BETWEEN THIS AND APPEALS FROM EAST ASIANS AND OTHERS BY ABSENTING THEMSELVES. PERUVIANS

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ARE EXPLAINING THAT THEIR ABSENCE WAS MERE ERROR, WHILE ALSO SAYING THEY HAD NOT VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ON DEFERMENT.

4. OVERWHELMING LA OPPOSITION TO PRO-SIHANOUK RES AND SUPPORT FOR DEFERMENT WERE PRINCIPALLY BASED ON SINCERE, DEEP CONVICTION THAT UN HAD NO BUSINESS INTERVENING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A MEMBER STATE BY DECIDING WHO SHOULD GOVERN IT AND BY SANCTIFYING A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. THEY DEPLORED THIS

ATTEMPTED BREACH OF CHARTER AND THE PRECEDENT IT WOULD SET.
THIS DOES NOT GAINSAY EFFECTIVENESS OF LOBBYING BY CAMBODIANS,
JAPANESE AND OTHER EAST ASIANS, FOR WHOM THERE WAS GENUINE
SYMPATHY AS THE GROUP MOST INTIMATELY CONCERNED, AS WELL AS
EFFECTIVENESS OF FONMIN LONG BORET'S LA TOUR LATE LAST YEAR.
IN ADDITION, LA'S RESENTED EFFORT BY NON-ALIGNED GROUP TO
OVERWHELM OTHERS BY INVOKING ALGIERS CONFERENCE "SOLIDARITY"
AND THEREBY ACHIEVE BLOCK VOTING -- A FACOTR OF IN-
CREASING CONCERN TO MODERATE LA'S IN OVERALL UN CONTEXT.
DEPTH OF FEELING OVER KHMER ISSUE WAS DEMONSTRATED BY SPONTAN-
EOUS BURST OF APPLAUSE FROM LA'S AND OTHER FRIENDLY
DELEGATIONS WHEN VOTE COUNT FLASHED ON BOARD.

5. LASTLY, WE WISH TO NOTE THAT, WHILE LOBBYING AND TACTICS
WERE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF EAST ASIANS, LA'S WERE WELL AWARE
OF INTENSE US INTEREST, AND OUR FRIENDS WERE HAPPY TO COOPERATE
CLOSELY WITH US AS WE PLAYED INCREASINGLY OPEN ROLE HERE IN
FINAL STAGES. GIVEN THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE, THIS
IS INDEED
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